

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3603

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1718

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER ON DOMESTIC SECURITY AND POLITICS
AND ON KISSINGER-VORSTER MEETING

SUMMARY. DURING JULY 2 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR PRIMIN
ELIJAH MUDENDA COMMENTED THAT ZAMBIA HAS BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO
CYCLES OF DISTURBANCES TO ITS INTERNAL SECURITY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF
WHITE RHODESIAN HOSTILITY. MUDENDA WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON
DOMESTIC POLITICAL MATTERS DESPITE MY INDERECT AND REPEATED REQUEST
FOR AUTHORITATIVE COMMENT ON RECENT RUMORS THAT BEMBA OPPOSITION
LEADER SIMON KAPWEPWE HAD BEEN IN NEGOTIATION WITH PRES KAUNDA
ABOUT APOLITICAL COMEBACK. PRIMIN HOPED US "HAD NO INTENTION
OF GETTING CLOSER TO VORSTER". SAID HE THOUGHT THAT US-ZAMBIAN
RELATIONS ARE NOW IN VERY GOOD SHAPE DESPITE PAST PERIODS OF
DIFFICULTY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COURSE OF HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION REQUESTED BY
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PM MUDENDA JULY 2 MAINLY ON ZAMBIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AND FOREIGN AID REQUESTS (SEPTTEL), I INVITED PM'S APPRAISAL OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, SAYING AMERICAN VISITORS TO ZAMBIA FREQUENTLY QUERIED DEPARTMENT ABOUT SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION HERE BECAUSE OF STATE OF EMERGENCY AND RECENT SPATE OF BOMBINGS. ALSO SAID SINCE MY RETURN IN EARLY JUNE I HAD ENCOUNTERED MAY RUMORS ABOUT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH NEEDED CLARIFICATION FROM AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE

2. I HAD IN MIND BUT DID NOT SAY SO TO PM THERE FAIRLY RELIABLE ROMOR CURRENTLY MAKING ROUNDS THAT FORMER UPP OPPOSITION AND BEMBA LEADER SIMON KAPWEPWE HAD BEEN INVITED BY PRES KAUNDA TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE UP FOR DOMESTIC SUPPORT KAUNDA REPORTEDLY HAD LOST FROM TROUBLES WITH EASTERN LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN HIS STAUNCHEST SUPPORTERS (E.G. ZULU, KAMANGA, KUWANI, BANDA, ETC.).

3. MUDENDA SMOOTHLY SIDE-TRACKED MY INQUIRY BY EXPLAINING THAT ZAMBIA HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO "NORMAL CYCLES" OF DISTURBANCES TO ITS INTERNAL SECURITY AS A RECURRING FACTOR IN ITS TROUBLES WITH RHODESIA TO THE SOUTH, FIRST FOLLOWING UDI IN NOVEMBER 1965, THEN AFTER JANUARY 1973 CLOSURE OF BORDER, AND MORE RECENTLY FOLLOWING ZAMBIQMS DECISION TO SUPPORT RENEWAL OF ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA. HE NOTED THAT REASONABLE OR GOOD COPPER PRICES PREVAILED IN FIRST TWO THREAT SITUATIONS WHILE MORE RECENT BOMBINGS AND DISTURBANCES ON BORDERS HIT ZAMBIA AT A TIME OF DEPRESSED COPPER PRICES. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE FIRST POST OFFICE BOMBINGS 11 YEARS AGO, BOMBINGS IN THE COPPERBELT IN 1973, AND THE LOSS OF ZAMBIAN LIVES ALONG THE BORDER BOTH IN 1973 AND CURRENTLY (LUSAKA 1577). SAID THREE ZAMBIAN YOUTHS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED.

4. STILL NOT CERTAIN WHETHER MUDENDA UNDERSTOOD MY ORIGINAL INQUIRY OR WAS DISSEMBLING, I SAID REALIZED MY QUESTION WAS QUITE DELICATE ONE BUT I SOUGHT AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION BECAUSE OF INTEREST IN LOCAL DOMESTIC SCENE ON PART OF VISITING US CONGRESSMEN. IMPLIED CODEL WOULD WANT TO KNOW IF CURRENT RUMORS TRUE THAT CERTAIN ONCE DISAFFECTED MEMBERS OF ZAMBIAN BODY POLITIC NOW THINKING OF REENTERING GOVERNMENT OR IN FACT WERE BEING INVITED INTO IT. (NOTE: THIS WAS AS SPECIFIC AS I THOUGHT I COULD GET IN PRESENCE OF UNKNOWN NOTETAKER.) MUDENDA IMMEDIATELY SAID HE CONFIDENTIAL

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WISHED TO BE COMPLETELY FRANK AND OPEN WITH ME, BUT THEN DID PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE IN MAKING NO MENTION OF KAPWEPWE OR THE CURRENTLY RUMORED AGITATION OF THE BEMBA FOR GREATER AND MORE SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATION IN THE GOVERNMENT, EVEN FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WHICH IT IS RUMORED WOULD REDUCE SOME OF THE ARBITRARY AUTHORITY WHICH HAS GONE TO KAUNDA AS A RESULT OF FORMATION OF ONE PARTY STATE AND NEW CONSTITUTION ADOPTED IN 1973.

5. MUDENDA FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON ZAMBIA'S SUCCESS IN "GIVING POWER TO THE PEOPLE" WHICH HE SAID WAS BEING EFFECTIVELY DONE UNDER ZAMBIAN ONE-PARTY PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY. HE SAID DECENTRALIZATION WAS BEING SUCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT STARTING FIRST WITH

THE GOVERNMENT, THEN THE PARTY, AND MORE RECENTLY WITH CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY COMMAND OF ITS ARMED FORCES AND REDEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS TO THE PROVINCES (LUSAKA A-36). MUDENDA COMPLETELY IGNORED MY REFERENCE TO "DISAFFECTED ELEMENTS." HAVING HEARD HIM OUT I DECIDED TO DROP MY DISCREET QUESTIONING.

6. INSTEAD RAISED SUBJECT OF UPCOMING SCHAUFELE VISIT TO BRIEF KAUNDA ON KISSINGER-VORSTER MEETING. PM EXPRESSED HOPE USG "HAD NO INTENTION OF GETTING CLOSER TO VORSTER:" ALSO HOPED USG HAD URGED SAG TO WITHDRAW FROM ANY FURTHER SUPPORT TO RHODESIA. AT THIS POINT I REITERATED US STAND ON APARTHEID, NAMBIA, AND OUR PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS ON RHODESIA.

7. MUDENDA THEN TURNED CONVERSATION TO US-ZAMBIA RELATIONS WHICH HE THOUGHT WERE "IN VERY GOOD SHAPE", EVEN THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THERE HAD BEEN "DIFFICULT PERIODS FOR YOU, DURING PAST FOUR YEARS".
WILKOWSKI

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